

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/066 W

-----088477 190943Z /11

O R 190719Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8871
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2537

LONDON FOR MOOSE AND LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US
SUBJ: BRIEFING FRONT LINE ON HELMS AMENDMENT

REF: STATE 180796 TOSEC 080140

1. CHARGE BRIEFED UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
ZIMBA ON THE HELMS AMENDMENT PER REFTEL ON AFTERNOON OF
JULY 18. ZIMBA EXPRESSED THANKS FOR OUR HAVING RAISED
THE ISSUE SAYING HE PLANNED TO DO SO HIMSELF. HE SAID
THAT RHODESIAN NEWS BROADCASTS HAVE HAD A DAILY ITEM ON
THE HELMS AMENDMENT SINCE JUNE 28 AND THAT THIS WAS A
MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE GRZ.

2. ZIMBA MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE HE AND OTHER GRZ
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OFFICIALS APPRECIATE THE DIVISION OF POWER IN THE U.S.
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, MANY DID NOT AND PASSAGE OF THE
HELMS AMENDMENT WOULD OPEN THE U.S. TO SEVERE CRITICISM
IN ZAMBIA. AT BEST THE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT WOULD BE
AN ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE U.S. AND VIEWED BY MANY AS
A MAJOR SHIFT IN U.S. AFRICA POLICY.

3. ZIMBA WELCOMED THE DEPARTMENT'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE AMENDMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN GATHERING ENOUGH SUPPORT TO DEFEAT IT. HE ASKED THAT WE KEEP HIM INFORMED ON THE SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM ZIMBA'S REMARKS AND THE OBVIOUS INTEREST IN THE AMENDMENT THAT THE PASSAGE WOULD BE DAMAGING TO OUR IMAGE AND CREDIBILITY IN ZAMBIA. ZAMBIA'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES NOTWITHSTANDING, THE GRZ WILL BE FORCED TO EXPRESS STRONG DISPLEASURE SHOULD THE AMENDMENT PASS. END COMMENT.
BARCAS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMENDMENTS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
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Litigation Codes:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PDEV, RH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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